



## ADVISORY NOTICE

No. 11-006

**SUBJECT:** Summary of changes to *Rhode Island Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders* (Effective August 1, 2011)

**ISSUED:** May 11, 2011

The Division of EMS has distributed updated *RI Prehospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders*, effective August 1, 2011. These updates include changes in patient care as well as miscellaneous housekeeping tasks. Several advanced airway management protocols have been consolidated into a single *Advanced Airway Procedures* protocol and the standalone protocols eliminated (*Endotracheal Intubation*, *Esophageal Obturator Airway*, *Cricothyrotomy*, and *Nasogastric Tube*.)

The following summary of changes has been compiled as an aid to EMS providers and should be used to familiarize personnel with the revised protocols. **Please note that this summary only describes the major changes made to each protocol, providers will find additional changes included throughout the protocols.**

### Table of Contents

- Reformatted to include the effective date for all protocols
- Revised protocol titles and numbers as necessary

#### 1.1 *Standard Management of All Patients*

- Added Stroke Centers to the specialized healthcare facilities table
- Revised language regarding use of restraint systems during transport
- Added language regarding the use of “supplemental” devices/procedures and the responsibility of ambulance services to ensure that their personnel are qualified to use such devices
- Added language to clarify that EMTs are **required** to utilize the Rhode Island Patient Tracking System (PTS), if available.

#### 2.9 *Supraventricular Tachycardia (Adult, Stable)*

- Corrected #9 to indicate that EMT-Cardiacs may administer calcium chloride to correct hypotension that occurs following administration of diltizem

#### 4.2 *Airway Management and Respiratory Support*

- Added table of respiratory support device and ventilators
- Added reference to use of CPAP/BiPAP
- Revised directives regarding supplemental oxygen to indicate that, when SpO<sub>2</sub> monitoring is available, oxygen should only be given as necessary to maintain an SpO<sub>2</sub> > 94%
- Added Supraglottic Airway Laryngopharyngeal Tube (SALT)

**4.7 Impaired Consciousness**

- Added reference to *Stroke* protocol
- Added intravenous D10W as an alternative to D50W

**4.13 Stroke (CVA, Brain Attack)**

- Revised to incorporate a new point-of-entry process for suspected stroke patients, including new stroke recognition criteria
- Added guidance for obtaining specific stroke-related history
- Updated interventions to reflect latest stroke care guidelines

**5.1 Trauma**

- Corrected to indicate that the Morgan® lens is a paramedic-only skill, because tetracaine is a paramedic-only medication

**8.1 Advanced Airway Management**

- New protocol to consolidate several existing advanced airway management protocols (*Endotracheal Intubation, Esophageal Obturator Airway, Cricothyrotomy, and Nasogastric Tube*)
- Added new language regarding use of capnometry (which is now required for all interfacility transports of intubated patients)
- Endotracheal intubation is now restricted to EMT-Cardiacs and Paramedics (EMT-Basics may *not* perform endotracheal intubation, even if they were previously licensed to do so as an extended role skill)
- Added new devices: Supraglottic Airway Laryngopharyngeal Tube (SALT®), Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA), LaryngoTracheal Airway/King® (LMA), and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- Updated indications for nasogastric/orogastric tube
- EOA is now allowed for trauma patients except where trauma to the head or neck region may alter airway anatomy or cause hemorrhage into the airway
- Added nasal intubation protocol (paramedic only)
- Revised adult procedure for cricothyrotomy (paramedic only)

**8.4 Patient Comfort**

- Renamed protocol (formerly *Pain Management*)
- Added oral administration of acetaminophen for BLS pain management
- Revised dosage and administration for all opiate narcotics and benzodiazepines
- Added ondansetron (Zofran®) as an anti-emetic
- Added pain scale as an example

**8.5 Pleural Decompression**

- Renumbered, no changes

**8.6 Pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment (PASG)**

- Renumbered, no changes

**9.2 Prehospital Formulary**

- Name changed
- Revised to include all medications approved for prehospital use in Rhode Island